



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Media release

ICE FISHING HAZARD

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department has received two calls in the last two days regarding ice fishermen falling through the ice. On Saturday March 06th a man fell through while ice fishing on Cave Lake near Medimont Idaho.

Today, Sunday March 07th the Sheriff's Department Dive Rescue Team was paged out for a similar call for an adult male that fell through the ice on Fernan Lake near Fernan Village. Both men were able to rescue themselves. In the Fernan incident, the man was able to drag himself about 300' to shore after falling through.

The Sheriff's Department would like to take this opportunity to notify outdoor enthusiasts that ice conditions are not favorable for ice fishing with the recent warming trend and rainy weather. If a person decides to risk venturing out onto the ice they should be wearing a life jacket and carry a pair of ice picks with them in the event they fall through. Obviously the water temperature is very cold and a person who falls through will quickly become exhausted trying to rescue themselves and suffer from hypothermia. There hasn't been any ice fishing related drowning incidents for sometime in Kootenai County and with a little forethought we can avoid having any this year.

Sheriff Rocky Watson

By: Sgt. Matt Street
03-07-11